(d) The quantum of total loss on Coaching Services on Indian Railways during the year 1994-95 was Rs. 1927 crores. Zonal-wise losses are not maintained.

Toxic effects of DDT

1380. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDT is toxic and has been found very injurious to health;

(b) whether it remains in the soil for years and poisons soil and water;

(c) the reasons why Government have not banned DDT which is banned in USA and other countries; and

(d) the reason for not availing of the technology developed by Prof. Anand Chakrabarty of Illinois University, USA for oil spill eating microbes in place of DDT as reported in the Times of India dated the 8th January, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Pesticides including DDT are toxic in nature. These toxic substances can be injurious to health if they are not used as per recommended practices.

(b) DDT belongs to the organochlorine group of pesticides and as such is persistent in nature. However, its degradation in tropical conditions is faster as compared to temperate regions.

(c) Continued use of DDT has been reviewed by the Government from time to time since 1984. At present, its use in public health programme is permitted upto 10,000 metric tonnes per annum. The use of DDT in Agriculture was withdrawn in May, 1989.

(d) 'Microbe' reportedly capable os breaking down DDT into a lesser harmful compound is not commercially available.

Compensation to victims of Earthquakes of Latur-Osmanabad and UttarKashi

1381. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that victims of the major earthquakes of Latur-Osmanbad belt and UttarKashi are still to get compensation and rehabilitation aid, 3-4 years after the enormous human toll;

(b) if so, the number of persons at each place still awaiting compensation and rehabilitation aid, indicating the percentage of total number of victims they constitute; and

(c) how may families have since been provided with proper housing units, indicating the Central and International aid given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTUTE (SHRI CHATURANAN): (a) to (c) According to the information recieved from the State Governments, dependents of only 142 deceased persons in Latur and 180 in Osmanabad, representing 4.15% of of the total deceased persons are awaiting ex-gratia financial assistance. The delay is mainly because of disputes over legal heirs. Dependents of all the victims of the Uttarkashi earthquake have been provided ex-gratia financial assistnace.

An Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation programme costing Rs. 1181.81 crores is under implementation for rehabilitation of the victims of Maharashtra earthquake of September, 1993. The programme is financed 75% by the International Development Association credit, 12% by the contribution of the Government of Maharashtra, o.5% by the contribution of the Government of India and 12.5% by the donors including Overseas Development Agency, U.K., and the Asian Development Bank. Under the programmes, 13826 houses have so far been constructed out of the targeted

27051 houses in 52 re-located villages. In 23 villages the work has been completed and the houses handed over to the beneficiaries. Government of Uttar Pradesh have provided financial assistance to all the 65672 families whose houses were damaged in the wake of the Uttarkashi earthquake of October 1991.

Training policy regarding forest management

1382. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals and locals living in forest are consulted in training policy regarding forest management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take measurs to consult inhabitants of forest whenver any policy is to be formulated which affects lives of tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) In pursuance of National Forest Policy, 1988, Government of India have issued guidelines to all State/Union Territory Governments on 1st June, 1990 for involvement of tribals and local people in protection and management of degraded forests.

(b) So far 16 State Governments have adopted resoultions for participatory forest management.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that having regard to the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and forests, the primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management should be to associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests.

Criteria for Construction of Zonal Railway users Consultative Committees

1383. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for the constitution of Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees;

(b) whether it is a fact that due representation is not goven to the Members of Parliament of the area on these committees; and

(c) if so, the reasosn therefor and the manner in which Government propose to remove this lacuna particularly in the case of Western Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) To secure better representation of Railway Users and provide a forum for frequent interaction between Railways and Railway Users on matters relating to the services provided by Railways, Railway Users' Consultative Committees at Zonal levels are formed. In these Committees, represntation is given local Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Trade Associations, Passenger Associations, Agricultural Interest, Consumer Forums, Representatives of State Government, State Legislatures, Members of Parliament etc. In addition, some members are also nominated by the Minister of Railways under the Category of 'special interest' to represent the interest of those users who have not been otherwise given representation. In the Zonal Raolway Users Consultative Committee, nomination of 3 Members of Parliament (Two from the Lok Sabha and one frrm the Rajya Sabha) are made by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. As a matter of practice and policy, Members of Parliament hailing from the territorial jurisdiction of each of the zone are selected by that Ministry for nomination on Zonal Railway Users Consultaive Committee and due representation was given to the